THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHAREGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) On the basis of latest data available (upto 1988) on world trade in leather and leather goods, India's share in the global leather trade is around 3.5 per cent. The total value of leather and leather products exported during 1990-91 is Rs. 2553.85 crores.

(b) and (c) According to projections worked out by the Council for Leather exports from this sector are expected to cross Rs. 6300 crores by 1994-95. Based on these projections it is expected that by the end of the century, export would reach the level of about Rs. 10,000 crores. The Council proposes to achieve these targets by upgrading the design and product quality and by intensifying export promotional and marketing efforts in thrust markets.

Study of cost and fair selling price of yarns by BICP

1313. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the BICP from time to time to carry out study of cost and fair selling price studies of various man-made and synthetic filament yarns and staple fibres;

(b) whether his Ministry has also asked BICP to carry out such study in respect of Viscose Filament Yarn and blended yarn also as repeatedly requested by user industries; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefore and how does Government project the interest of the consumer in the absence of such a study.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) It is true that Government has entrusted BICP to undertake cost and fair selling price studies on various man-made and synthetic staple fibres and filament yarn including Viscose Filament Yarn. No such study has been entrusted to BICP for blended yarn. However, Government has an open mind about these studies and the study in respect of blended yarn could also be taken at an appropriate stage, if situation so demands.

***Import of* Synthetic Man-made fabrics under OGL**

1314. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering import of synthetic/man-made fabrics under OGL, for selling these items through Public Distribution Systems with a view to bringing pressure on the high retail prices of these fabrics;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the interest of the consumers are not adversely affected by keeping only the man-made fibres/yarns under OGL while the fabrics are not allowed to be imported at reasonable levels of duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) On account of the fact that enough weaving capacity exists in the country and the vulnerable decentralised sector is engaged in weaving industry employing a large number of work force, the import of fabrics is not placed under OGL. The extension of facility to import raw material like man-dame fibres/yarns under OGL should appropriately safeguard the interests of the consumers.